

REMARKS

Claims 7-10, 12, 14, 23, and 28-42 are pending in the case. Claim 7 is amended to delete the second hyphen in "4-halo-acetoacetic", delete the clause concerning "naturally occurring", change the term "can participate" to "participates", and add the enzyme designation "(EC 1.1.1.36)". These amendments are supported throughout the specification and original claims, including, e.g., at page 11 of the specification. None of the amendments narrows the claims. According to the Examiner in two telephonic interviews with the undersigned on March 1, 2004, and April 22, 2004, these amendments would remove all of the grounds for objection and rejection raised in the Office Action mailed November 28, 2003.

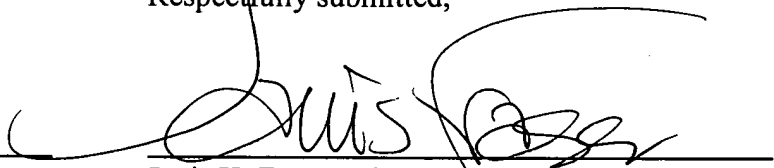
Applicants thank the Examiner for granting Applicant the aforementioned interviews, during which the pending Office Action was discussed. Applicant's representative pointed out that the poly- β -hydroxy fatty acid biosynthesis system and enzymes that participate in it (including acetoacetyl-CoA reductases) are very well known in the art. The homology of such acetoacetyl-CoA reductases to Type II fatty acid synthase (fabG), as mentioned on page 5 of the specification, was also discussed. As further background, Applicant's representative referred the Examiner to Fig. 3 of Rawlings et al., J Biol Chem 267:5751-5754, 1992, for an illustration of this homology. Ultimately it was agreed to amend claim 7 as indicated above. Applicant requests entry of the amendment, withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of all of the pending claims.

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Page : 6 of 6

Attorney's Docket No.: 14879-030001 / D1-003DP2-US

Enclosed is a \$420.00 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 23, 2004 ()
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